



*S. Fittell*  
*4903*

**PATENT APPLICATION**

*#18/D*

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Takamitsu ASANUMA et al.

Group Art Unit: 3748

Application No.: 09/904,875

Examiner: T. Nguyen

Filed: July 16, 2001

Docket No.: 110108

For: A DEVICE FOR PURIFYING THE EXHAUST GAS OF AN INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE

**AMENDMENT**

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**RECEIVED**  
APR 08 2003  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

In reply to the December 30, 2002 Office Action, and in accordance with the concurrently filed Request for Continued Examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 7-8 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please replace claims 1-5 as follow:

*Sub. E1 >* 1. (Twice Amended) A device for purifying the exhaust gas of an internal combustion engine comprising:  
  
a particulate filter arranged in the exhaust system, which carries a catalyst for absorbing and reducing NO<sub>x</sub>, said catalyst absorbing NO<sub>x</sub> when the air-fuel ratio in the surrounding atmosphere thereof is lean and releasing the absorbed NO<sub>x</sub> when said air-fuel ratio is stoichiometric or rich;